

Table 18 - Event Damage

Project: Integrated Restoration in Elkhorn Slough

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that the flood hazard on the lower Pajaro River results in Total Expected Annual Damages of \$12.1 million under existing conditions. (The relevant excerpt, from the Draft U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Re-evaluation Report: Economics Appendix, is attached as an addendum to Wolcott, 2010). This includes the damages in agriculture, transportation (automobile), residential, public space, commercial, industrial, and emergency categories. The \$12.1 million figure is used conservatively, as this value likely underestimates actual damages. Work is underway to revise the estimate in the agricultural and other damage categories (such as rail transportation). The expected result is that the next draft (planned for release in spring 2011) will publish a higher total annual damages figure than the current amount.

The Bench Excavation Project is anticipated to increase the levee conveyance or flood carrying capacity by approximately 2,000 cubic feet per second. This represents a 9-percent increase over the current levee capacity. Northwest Hydraulic Consultants analyzed existing and project conditions for a design storm based on discharges recorded in 1998, when levees were within 0.1 feet of overtopping (provided as an addendum in Wolcott 2010). The model analysis indicated that the Bench Excavation Project would reduce the river stage by 0.5 to 1.9 feet in various reaches of the river. The effect of the project on the flood recurrence interval was not determined, however, and therefore the Total Expected Annual Damages under the project could not be estimated using probabilistic methods.